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RUEHKL/AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE 0029  
RUEHNV/AMEMBASSY MONROVIA IMMEDIATE 0171  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE 1633  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEABND/DEA HQS WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 5442  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEAWJL/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 04 BANGKOK 001998

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP/MLS, NSC FOR BADER

EO 12958 DECL: 08/13/2019  
TAGS PTER, KCRM, TH, RS, CO  
SUBJECT: NEXT STEPS ON THE VIKTOR BOUT EXTRADITION CASE IN  
THE WAKE OF LOWER COURT DEFEAT  
REF: BANGKOK 385 (NOTAL)

Classified By: Ambassador Eric G. John, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

11. (C) Summary and comment. The disappointing August 11 Thai Lower Court ruling against the extradition of Russian arms trafficker Viktor Bout

12. (C) At the same time, the Embassy recommends the State Department, Attorney General Holder, and the US Mission to the UN in New York engage  
Thai Lower Court rules against Bout extradition  
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13. (C) On August 11, the judge in the Viktor Bout extradition case ruled against U.S. and Thai government efforts to extradite Bout to the Uni

14. (C) After the verdict, as the Department has seen, the DCM spoke on the record to press outside the court room and expressed disappointment  
Engaging the Thai immediately  
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15. (C) The Ambassador called Foreign Minister Kasit immediately after the verdict on August 11 and expressed deep disappointment, noting that  
Next steps  
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16. (C) The Embassy's "Bout team" met August 13 to review next steps that will help us prevail on appeal. Our immediate priority was to ensure

17. (C) We will make clear to the RTG that we expect Bout to remain incarcerated during the appeals process, as specified under Thai law and th

18. (C) At the same time, however, we believe it is important to remember that our partners in the Royal Thai Police, the Office of the Attorne

19. (C) That said, coming on the heels of the September 2008 Thai appellate ruling affirming a lower court's denial of our request to extradite

110. (S) The Department will recall that in February of this year, after significant indications that the Russians were trying to use bribes to  
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Ambassador also intervened at the same time with Defense Minister Prawit Wongsuwan and the Royal Thai Naval Commander Khamtorn Pumhiran to insi

What We are Doing here/What We Suggest Washington Do  
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111. (C) Given the above, we are undertaking the following steps here in Bangkok, most of which should also be reflected when the Department ce

112. (C) We suggest that Washington strongly consider the following actions: -- In addition to the Department calling in the Thai Ambassador, w  
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the implications of the Bout verdict. We suggest inquiring whether Colombia considers the FARC to be a terrorist organization, whether it would  
-- Finally, despite the listing by the US and EU of the FARC as a terrorist organization, we understand that the FARC is not listed as such by